

Appl. No. 09/821,581  
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Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A filter device for coffee or the like comprising:

a container body consisting of an open frame formed of sheet material having predetermined rigidity, and a blind-end frame, including an annular bottom member, being joined with said open frame so as to be foldable into said open frame, said blind-end frame being formed of sheet material having predetermined flexibility; and

a filter chamber for enclosing substance to be extracted, being mounted with a filter on said annular bottom member,

wherein said blind-end frame is foldable into said open frame together with said filter ~~chamber~~, chamber and said open frame provides a reinforcing structure that surrounds an outer upper portion of the blind-end frame when the filter is unfolded.

Claim 2 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame is formed of sheet material having predetermined rigidity in a tubular shape, and said blind-end frame is formed of deformable sheet material in a tubular shape to which is given shape retaining

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characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility.

Claim 3 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said container body has varied diameter gradually reduced from said open frame to said blind-end frame and is formed into a substantially inverted shape of a truncated cone.

Claim 4 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame and said filter chamber have substantially the same height.

Claim 5 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame and said blind-end frame have substantially the same height.

Claim 6 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame, said blind-end frame and said filter chamber have substantially the same height.

Claim 7 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the height of said blind-end frame is substantially twice as high as the height of said open frame, and an upper half of said blind-end frame is attached to an inner peripheral face or an outer peripheral face of said open frame.

Claim 8 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a reinforcing frame having

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predetermined rigidity is formed at a circumferential edge of a bottom of said blind-end frame.

Claim 9 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said reinforcing frame is extended downward from said bottom of said blind-end frame thereby to integrally form a cup holding frame.

Claim 10 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said open frame and said reinforcing frame provided at said circumferential edge of said bottom are integrally connected by means of a plurality of connecting pieces.

Claim 11 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom of said blind-end frame is formed of a bottom plate made of sheet material having predetermined rigidity.

Claim 12 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame is formed of thick paper having predetermined rigidity, and a body part of said blind-end frame is formed of deformable thin paper provided with shape retaining characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility.

Claim 13 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open frame is formed of non-woven fabric having predetermined rigidity, and a body part of said blind-end frame is

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formed of deformable non-woven fabric provided with shape retaining characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility.

Claim 14 (original): A filter device for coffee or the like which is constructed;

by forming an open frame in a short tubular shape of sheet material having predetermined rigidity,

by extending a body part of a blind-end frame extending downward from a lower edge of said open frame thereby to form a cup-shaped container body, said blind-end frame being formed of deformable sheet material provided with shape retaining characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility; and

by continuously forming a filter chamber for enclosing substance to be extracted such as ground coffee in a bottom of said blind-end frame via a filter,

wherein when it is not in use, said filter chamber is pushed into said open frame while said body part of said blind-end frame is flexed and deformed to fold and contract said blind-end frame, and when it is in use, said body part is flexed to expand said blind-end frame thereby enabling said container body to be expanded and restored to a cup-like shape, and said filter chamber to be pulled ~~downward~~ downward, said open frame providing a reinforcing structure that surrounds an outer upper portion of the blind-end frame when the filter is expanded.

Claim 15 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said container body has

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varied diameter gradually reduced from said open frame to said blind-end frame and is formed into a substantially inverted shape of truncated cone.

Claim 16 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said open frame and said filter chamber have substantially the same height.

Claim 17 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said open frame and said blind-end frame have substantially the same height.

Claim 18 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said open frame and said filter chamber have substantially the same height, and said open frame and said blind-end frame have substantially the same height.

Claim 19 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein an upper edge of said blind-end frame is connected to a lower edge of said open frame, and said upper edge of said blind-end frame is extended along an inner peripheral face of said open frame to be integrally joined thereto.

Claim 20 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein an upper edge of said blind-end frame is connected to a lower edge of said open frame, and said upper edge of said

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blind-end frame is extended along an outer peripheral face of said open frame to be integrally joined thereto.

Claim 21 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein an annular reinforcing frame of sheet material having predetermined rigidity is formed at a lower edge of said blind-end frame along its entire circumference.

Claim 22 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 21, wherein a lower end portion of said reinforcing frame is extended downward from said bottom of said blind-end frame thereby to integrally form a cup holding frame.

Claim 23 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said open frame and said reinforcing frame provided at said circumferential edge of said bottom are integrally connected by means of a plurality of connecting pieces.

Claim 24 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said bottom of said blind-end frame is formed of a bottom plate made of sheet material having predetermined rigidity.

Claim 25 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 24, wherein an annular reinforcing frame of sheet material having predetermined rigidity is formed at a lower edge of said blind-end

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frame along its entire circumference.

Claim 26 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 25, wherein a lower end portion of said reinforcing frame is extended downward from said bottom of said blind-end frame thereby to integrally form a cup holding frame.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The filter device as claimed in claim 24, 25, wherein said open frame and said reinforcing frame provided at said circumferential edge of said bottom are integrally connected by means of a plurality of connecting pieces.

Claim 28 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said open frame is formed of thick paper having predetermined rigidity, and said body part of said blind-end frame is formed of deformable thin paper provided with shape retaining characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility.

Claim 29 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 28, wherein an annular reinforcing frame of sheet material having predetermined rigidity is formed at a lower edge of said blind-end frame along its entire circumference.

Claim 30 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 29, wherein a lower end portion of

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said reinforcing frame is extended downward from said bottom of said blind-end frame thereby to integrally form a cup holding frame.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The filter device as claimed in claim 28, 29, wherein said open frame and said reinforcing frame provided at said circumferential edge of said bottom are integrally connected by means of a plurality of connecting pieces.

Claim 32 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said open frame is formed of non-woven fabric having predetermined rigidity, and said body part of said blind-end frame is formed of deformable non-woven fabric provided with shape retaining characteristic having predetermined rigidity and flexibility.

Claim 33 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 32, wherein an annular reinforcing frame of sheet material having predetermined rigidity is formed at a lower edge of said blind-end frame along its entire circumference.

Claim 34 (original): The filter device as claimed in claim 33, wherein a lower end portion of said reinforcing frame is extended downward from said bottom of said blind-end frame thereby to integrally form a cup holding frame.



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Claim 35 (currently amended): The filter device as claimed in claim ~~32~~, 33, wherein said open frame and said reinforcing frame provided at said circumferential edge of said bottom are integrally connected by means of a plurality of connecting pieces.